



PRESS RELEASE

DHR Maryland Department of Human Resources
Maryland's Human Services Agency

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Food Stamp Participation Reaches Historic Level

389, 298 Marylanders receive food stamps

BALTIMORE, MD – Since September of 2007, the number of Marylanders receiving food stamps increased an historic 16 percent, bringing the total number of people receiving the benefit in Maryland to 389,298.

The food stamp program is a 100 percent federally funded program designed to help low-income households buy the food they need for good health. A family of three with a monthly income of less than \$1,907 or a single person with income of less than \$1,127 may be eligible for food stamps. Depending on the income, a family of three can receive from \$10 to \$463 a month to help buy food, and a single person can get up to \$176.

“Social service programs such as food stamps have long been identified as a bell-weather indicator for the state of the economy,” said Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR) Secretary Brenda Donald. “There’s no doubt that the economy is struggling both nationally and in Maryland.”

The Maryland Department of Human Resources increased its outreach efforts and partnered with federal Food and Nutrition Service, the Maryland Food Bank and many other community organizations to make it easier for people to apply for food stamps. The number of Marylanders receiving food stamp benefits has increased every year since 2002.

Marylanders interested in applying for food stamps should call the DHR Customer Service number **1-800-332-6347** and ask for an application, or call or visit their local department of social services or apply on the internet using Maryland’s web-based application SAIL (Service Access and Information Link) at www.marylandsail.org.

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources protects the State's vulnerable children and adults and provides temporary economic assistance. DHR strengthens Maryland families and improves communities through its 24 Departments of Social Services, community partnerships and its three administrations: the Social Services Administration, Family Investment Administration, and Child Support Enforcement Administration.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary